

are here printed also a few lines from the Los Angeles *Herald*, in a Pacific Coast News Service dispatch of April 18, 1931, which was the date of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the San Francisco earthquake and fire.

The dispatch is as follows:

"San Francisco, April 18.—San Francisco today celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its great fire.

"On a morning just twenty-five years ago an earthquake shook the city, fires followed in quick succession and much of the city was destroyed.

"Out of the ashes of 2500 acres of burned homes, factories, stores and office buildings; out of the chaos of broken water mains, twisted pavements and cracked earth has risen the city which the world knows today.

"The refugees who fled from the fire soon returned. Others followed them, with the result that the city which in 1906 had a population of 387,260 has grown to 634,394.

"From that ashy 2500 acres, whose assessed valuation was approximately \$300,000,000, the city has expanded to 42 square miles, with a total assessed valuation of \$1,303,025,065.

"Not content to rest on its laurels, the city has other huge tasks planned, some of which are already under way. Others are assured." . . .

NARCOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS—CALIFORNIA NARCOTIC LAWS

The California Medical Association Council's Letter of Caution of March, 1930.—Under the above caption, in this column of the March 1930 issue, page 192, attention was called to a letter on the California narcotic laws, which letter was gotten out by the Council and mailed to every member of the California Medical Association.

Only recently a communication was received by the Council from a member of one of the component county societies, in which the Council was somewhat taken to task for presumably having been frightened, when it gave expression in its letter on the desirability of all members of the California Medical Association protecting themselves from arrest by narcotic inspectors through carefully observing the technical provisions of the California statutes concerning narcotic prescriptions.

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A Recent Opinion on the Narcotic Law by Attorney General Webb of California.—That the action last year taken by the Council in sending out the letter about narcotics was warranted may be gathered from the item quoted below, which has just been received by the editor from Dr. C. B. Pinkham, secretary of the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California. The item is printed at this time because it will serve as an additional reminder and caution for members of the California Medical Association to be punctilious when they write prescriptions for narcotics.

The item follows:

"It is reported that on March 3, 1931, Attorney General Webb rendered Opinion No. 7425 in interpretation of Section 1 of 'An Act to regulate the

sale, possession, distribution and use of habit forming, narcotic and other dangerous drugs and substances and providing penalties for the violation thereof,' that

"The Act in question requires that the prescribing physician in his own handwriting affix the date of the prescription, designate the drug and the manner of its use, the name of the person for whom the same is prescribed and his address . . . and that the prescription shall be signed and dated as of the date on which said prescription is written by the physician."

"This opinion is of sufficient importance to be presented to the medical profession for their guidance."

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITAL—CHARGES AGAINST ITS SUPER-INTENDENT

California County Hospital Problems.—As the years come and go, the county hospital situations in California take on increasing complexities.

In the February 1931 CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 120, the attempt of the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County to inaugurate what might be considered a form of state medicine at the Santa Maria branch of the Santa Barbara Hospital was discussed.

Again in the March 1931 number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 219, was given a considerable review of some opinions of the basic California laws having to do with the organization and maintenance of county hospitals, and the economic status of citizens who were eligible to admittance in such institutions. These excerpts were taken by the editor from a file which was loaned to him by Dr. Neal N. Wood, superintendent of the Los Angeles County General Hospital.

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Supervisor Shaw Files Charges Against Superintendent Wood.—Comes now a new sensation in California county hospital affairs, the same being an effort to bring about the dismissal of Dr. Neal N. Wood of the Los Angeles County General Hospital. At the time this is written charges have been filed, but the hearing of Doctor Wood has not yet taken place. The result of that hearing will probably be known to members of the California Medical Association before this May issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is placed in the mails.

Pending such a hearing, it is better that the subject of the charges and the possible reasons therefore, as filed by Supervisor Frank Shaw, be not discussed in detail in this column. Nevertheless, inasmuch as the Los Angeles County Medical Association has been drawn into the controversy, and through its trustees and councilors has gone on record on certain phases of the matters in dispute, it is very proper to call attention thereto in this official journal of the California Medical Association. It must be agreed that to have summarily dismissed a hospital executive, after years of service, on charges from two lay